

## Message

**From:** Wilson, Jennifer [wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/28/2017 7:12:35 PM  
**To:** Shoven, Heather [shoven.heather@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: News Articles on Wolverine/Plainfield Township PWS and other PFAS stories

Thank you for forwarding.

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**From:** Shoven, Heather  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:14 AM  
**To:** Rice, Cassandra <rice.cassandra@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Harris, Kimberly <harris.kimberly@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: News Articles on Wolverine/Plainfield Township PWS and other PFAS stories

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Best wishes,  
 Heather

Heather A. Shoven  
 Compliance and Enforcement Team Leader  
 Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch  
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**From:** Rice, Cassandra  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: News Articles on Wolverine/Plainfield Township PWS and other PFAS stories

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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**From:** Shoven, Heather  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** Rice, Cassandra <rice.cassandra@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FYI: News Articles on Wolverine/Plainfield Township PWS and other PFAS stories

### Plainfield residents seek water answers as township officials lawyer up

[http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/11/plainfield\\_residents\\_seek\\_wate.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/11/plainfield_residents_seek_wate.html)

PLAINFIELD TWP., MI - A combative meeting between Plainfield Township residents and their elected officials Monday night was marked by a particularly tense exchange around a single question: is the township's water safe to drink? "Can you guarantee to my son, to the schools, to everybody here, that the water is safe?" resident Bill Mitchell asked the township's manager, Bob Homan, and the supervisor, Cameron Van Wyngarden. "No one's going to answer a question like that," Homan said after reaching for his

water glass behind the dais. "If it were distilled water, I could probably do that. ...I drink it, my family drinks it, my kids drink it." Homan and Van Wyngarden said the township's water meets the federal safe drinking water standards. Why a 'safe' PFAS level in drinking water is so ambiguous. Mitchell was among a number of concerned residents that packed the township board's Monday night meeting with questions about the township's water over an emerging contaminant that's become a growing local concern this fall: PFOS. Township officials threw aside the typical rules that govern public comment at their board meeting Monday night, as they imposed no time limits on the speakers, allowed some people to speak twice and answered questions as people asked them. PFAS, a type of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, was first found in the township's well water after a 2013 federally required test. The township shut down one of its well fields in 2015 due to contamination likely from the Superfund State Disposal Landfill - and since then, PFAS has remained in the township's water system in lower levels. Tannery waste dumped at landfill tied to municipal water pollution. The latest test of the township's water in September showed a combined level of types of PFAS -- PFOS and PFOA -- at 10 parts per trillion (ppt). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory for PFAS is 70 ppt. In the past several months the issue has reignited in Plainfield Township due to a mushrooming investigation into tannery waste dump sites from Wolverine World Wide that have contaminated some private drinking water wells. The township is in the midst of engineering an extension of its drinking water system to neighborhoods impacted by the Wolverine dump sites. Officials have also recently hired a lawyer, Grand Rapids-based attorney Doug Van Essen, to represent their interests. Waste Management, which now owns the closed State Disposal Landfill that contaminated the township's water wells, should pay for the new well field the township is trying to build, Van Essen said. Wolverine should pay for the township's drinking water system extension - and possibly the new well field as well, Van Essen said. Township expects Wolverine to pay for water extension near dump site. Travis Brown, a township resident, chemist and one of the founders of a new citizens group, Demand Action, called on officials to test for 90 contaminants that the EPA regulates with EPA oversight. "We need immediate help from a neighboring water source," Brown said. "These people in this room are more than customers. They are mothers, fathers, families with children. Look around. Everyone who is here is concerned. This is real." Brown said his group has started its own cancer and disease survey in the community. He encouraged the residents in attendance to educate themselves about what is safe and to use public information. Van Wyngarden disputed the figures Brown included in his public comments, calling them outdated. "It's time for Mr. Brown to take some acceptance for the facts as they are, not as he wants them to be," Van Wyngarden said. For most of the residents in attendance, they shared their struggle with knowing how to respond to low levels of toxic poison in their water. "I lost my wife this last year to cancer and I can't say confidently that it's not because of the PFAS in the water," said Robert Bennett, who lives near the Boulder Creek Golf Course. "Where do I go from here?" Resident Jonathan Wright said the township needs to consider a careful plan of action - and to understand that the water may not be so poisonous now that people drop dead immediately from drinking it, but that it could kill some in the community in 20 years. "The idea that we're hitting these mandatory minimums - we have to do better," Wright said to applause from those at the meeting. Van Wyngarden agreed. "We're striving for better," Van Wyngarden said, explaining that the township wants to lower the PFAS in its water to the lowest level possible. Residents need to educate themselves about the relative risks to the water and choose what's right for them, Van Wyngarden said. "I think it's a personal comfort level," Van Wyngarden said. "I'm comfortable with the water, with the information I've been given, that it's safe for my children to drink." Second townhall meeting on Wolverine pollution is Nov. 29

## States push efforts to address PFAS

<https://insideepa.com/daily-feed/states-push-efforts-address-pfas>

Officials in three states -- Minnesota, New Jersey and North Carolina -- are pushing regulatory and litigation pressures on manufacturers to address releases of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a persistent class of chemicals that EPA does not formally regulate. EPA last year released drinking water health advisories for two of the earliest and better known PFAS, known as PFOA and PFOS, of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). These

advisories are intended to guide local authorities, but have no regulatory effect. But the agency has yet to formally regulate any of the substances. In Minnesota, Attorney General Lori Swanson is preparing for an upcoming trial against 3M Co., for \$5 billion in damages to the health of residents near the company's plant and the environment who were exposed to the substances which are sometimes known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). According to a Nov. 21 article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Swanson says that PFAS the company released near Twin Cities suburbs years ago "caused higher rates of cancer, infertility and low birthweight babies" and in court briefs filed Nov. 17, "Swanson included the conclusions of an expert environmental witness, while alleging that the health and environmental damage of the contamination totals \$5 billion." The new court documents include "allegations that 3M knew the local groundwater was contaminated with PFCs years before it stopped making them; that it suppressed the information over the objections of its own scientists; and that it withheld critical information from" EPA, the article states. 3M told the paper that it has not damaged the state, "let alone over \$5 billion in alleged damages." The suit is scheduled for trial in early 2018. Minnesota is not alone among states taking a harder approach to PFC contamination. New Jersey announced early in the month that it will regulate PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, one of the first states to do. New Jersey is issuing a PFOA standard of 14 ppt, along with a standard for another PFC, known as PFNA of 13 ppt, according to a Nov. 1 article in *The Record*. The new standards were researched and proposed by New Jersey's independent advisory group known as the Drinking Water Quality Institute, which "has worked to develop recommendations that will protect the citizens of New Jersey from these contaminants based on the scientific literature, as well as on detection and treatment strategies that are available," Keith Cooper, the institute's chairman, told *The Record*. The institute is scheduled to meet Nov. 28 to discuss its draft health-based maximum contaminant level support document for PFOS. Meanwhile, North Carolina is continuing to monitor for water discharges of GenX, another PFAS, from a Chemours facility in Fayetteville, which the state is targeting for exceeding its discharge permits and failing to notify the Department of Environmental Quality of an October spill.

North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) released a Nov. 22 statement reporting another spike in its monitoring of levels of GenX in the Cape Fear River. NCDEQ noted that "a similar spike in GenX concentrations" followed an Oct. 6 spill that the company, Chemours, a DuPont spinoff, failed to report to DEQ as required by its discharge permit. The state announced earlier in November that it had cited Chemours for failing to report the Oct. 6 spill and moved to revoke Chemours' wastewater discharge permit.

### **State orders Chemours to provide bottled water to 34 more well owners**

<http://www.wect.com/story/36934922/state-orders-chemours-to-provide-bottled-water-to-34-more-well-owners>

RALEIGH, NC (WECT) - Test results released Monday by the NC Department of Environmental Quality measured concentrations of GenX, PFOA and PFOS at Chemours' wastewater discharge outfall and five drinking water treatment plants in the Lower Cape Fear. Concentrations of GenX were below the NC Department of Health and Human Services' health goal of 140 parts per trillion in finished drinking water at International Paper, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, and the Northwest Brunswick and Pender County utility water treatment plants. Levels for PFOA and PFOS were below the Environmental Protection Agency's 70 parts per trillion health goal at all locations tested Oct. 6-12. The latest round of surface water results includes testing for an expanded list of chemical compounds. Of those, only PFOA, PFOS and GenX have established health goals. DEQ said will continue to conduct water quality monitoring in the Cape Fear River and will release the results of testing as soon as they are available. State officials also released the latest results of private well testing near Chemours and DEQ has directed the company to provide bottled water to 34 more

well owners near the company's Fayetteville Works facility. Preliminary test results from the company's expanded sampling show GenX above the state's provisional health goal in residential drinking wells. In mid-October, Chemours expanded its sampling to 450 parcels one mile from the facility's property boundary. Of those sampled, the state has verified results for 107 wells that were tested Oct. 11-19 and 48 showed detections of GenX below the health goal. Twenty-five wells showed no detections of GenX. There are now 85 residential well owners living near Chemours' Fayetteville Works site who are receiving bottled water because of GenX detections above the provisional state health goal. The expanded sampling will include more than twice as many wells as the sampling conducted by Chemours and DEQ. On Nov. 20, DEQ officials met with representatives from Bladen and Cumberland counties and discussed alternative water solutions. Both counties and the state are looking into several long-term water solutions, including digging deeper wells, installing water filters on homes or running water lines to residents whose wells tested above the state's drinking water health goal. More information about the state's ongoing testing and investigation of fluorinated compounds can be found by [clicking here](#).



**Kimberly M. Harris**

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